

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 109578

R 130915Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 237

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: US NAVAL TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

REF COLOMBO 2740, COLOMBO 2746 (NOTAL)

1. NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON TASK FORCE SINCE MDFA SPOKESMAN'S DODGING OF QUESTION NOV 2 (COLOMBO 2740).

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT APPEARED NOV 3 IN LEFTISH SINHALA WEEKLY JANAVEGAYA, WHICH CONTROLLED BY KUMAR RUPASINGHE, PM'S SON-IN-LAW. ARTICLE WRITTEN IN HIGHLY CRITICAL VEIN AND STATES IN PART THAT SENDING HANCOCK TASK FORCE TO INDIAN OCEAN DIRECT THREAT TO ASIAN NATIONS AND TO SOVEREIGNTY OF SRI LANKA. IT ALSO NOTES THAT US AND SOVIETS ENDEAVORING TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR NAVAL POWER IN INDIAN OCEAN, THAT, AS RESULT, PM BANDARANAIKE INTRODUCED INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) PROPOSAL IN UN AND THAT BOTH US AND USSR ABSTAINED IN UN VOTING ON PROPOSAL. ARTICLE ENDS SAYING CEYLONSE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DENOUNCE

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AND CONDEMN THIS ACT OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS.

3. SUN, DAILY WHICH CURRENTLY SUPPORTING OPPOSITON, HAD EDITORIAL ON IOPZ NOV 5. PURPOSE OF EDITORIAL WAS TO EM-BARRASS GSL AND WAS BASED ON REMARKS BY MDFA DEPMIN JAYAKODY OCT 23 (COLOMBO 2746 NOTAL). EDITORAL DID NOT MENTION HANCOCK BUT TOOK GSL TO TASK FOR ALLOWING NAVAL SHIPS TO MAKE COURTESY CALLS IN SRI LANKA AS THIS ENCOURAGES NAVIES TO PATROL INDIAN OCEAN. SUN SEES THIS AS VIOLATION OF SPIRT OF IOPZ.

4. SUNDAY WEEKEND NOV 11, WHICH PUBLISHED BY SAME GROUP AS SUN, HAS ARTICLE ON PM'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO INDIA (SOME REPORTS INDICATE VISIT MAY OCCUR AS EARLY AS DEC) WITH HEAD-LINE "TWO PMS TO DISCUSS AMERICAN NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN". STORY ITSELF PUTS AMERICAN PRESENCE NEAR END OF ITS LISTING EXPECTED TOPICS OF DISCUSSION DURING PM'S INDIAN VISIT. STORY SAYS TWO PREMIERS ARE CERTAIN TO DISCUSS THIS LATEST THREAT TO PEACE IN RET

MN/8222

5. OTHER PRESS PLAY HAS BEEN REPRINT IN NOV 9 DAILY NEWS OF CRITICAL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY G.K. REDDY FOR MADRAS HINDU WHICH BASED ON INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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